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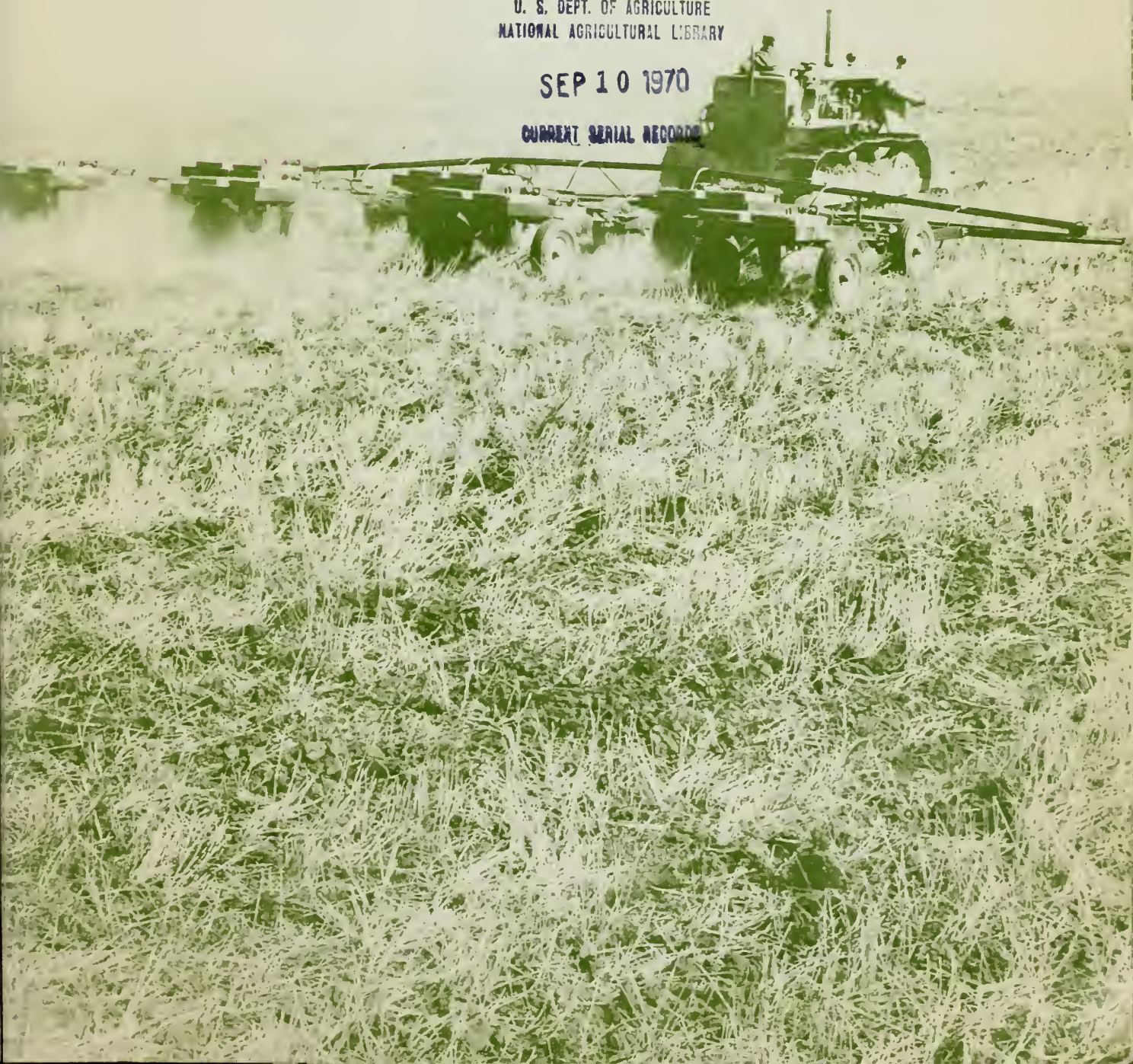
PA-960 • SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE • U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

An Expanded GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM for the 1970's

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Cattle on the south side of a livestock windbreak. NEH-2,075

What the Great Plains Conservation Program has done since 1957--

Protected and improved cropland
 Reduced wind and water erosion
 Improved water conservation
 Increased the value for livestock
 Stabilized income
 Saved scarce irrigation water
 Strengthened community economy
 Made the Great Plains countryside more attractive

In those areas of the Great Plains troubled by unusual agricultural hazards, including recurring prolonged and severe droughts, the Great Plains Conservation Program has enabled thousands of farmers and ranchers to strengthen their operations and make Plains living more satisfying.

They have done this through federal cost sharing and by getting high priority in technical help from the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This makes it possible for these farmers and ranchers, working through their local conservation districts, to develop and apply complete conservation plans on their operating units.

In the Great Plains Conservation Program the land owner or operator—

- Develops a conservation plan suited to his land and to the kind of operation he desires.
- Works out a schedule for applying the plan.
- Enters into a contract with the Secretary of Agriculture to apply all needed conservation work on the entire unit within 3 to 10 years.
- Gets help from the specialists of the Soil Conservation Service as he needs it.
- Receives the federal share of the cost (from 50 to 80 percent) as he completes each conservation step.

What the Great Plains Conservation Program can do in the '970's --

Congress has extended the Great Plains Conservation Program to December 31, 1981, by enacting Public Law 91-118. This law amends the original act and broadens the use of technical help and the existing cost-shared practices to deal with special problems and opportunities. It makes additional provisions for:

- Disposal of animal wastes. Concentrations of farm animals are problems of growing concern in hundreds of rural communities. Cost-shared practices to reduce or control agriculture-related pollution can now be made a part of the conservation plan.

- Developing recreation and fish and wildlife resources. Although no farm or ranch conservation plan in the program can be based entirely on recreation and fish and wildlife development, such development can be a useful part of the plan. Broadened uses of existing practices permit cost sharing for these incidental purposes.

- Conservation work on nonfarm land adversely affecting a farming area.

Uncontrolled runoff or blowing soil from nearby land may interfere with the successful operation of a farm or ranch. If the owner of the adjoining land is willing, the program provides him technical assistance and cost sharing to relieve the problem.

- Promoting the economic use of land.

The Great Plains Conservation Program was designed by Congress in 1956 as an additional tool for conservation districts in stabilizing the agriculture and economy of the vast Great Plains area. The program contains the recommendations of the Great Plains Agricultural Council and reflects long study of and experience with Great Plains conditions by scientists and landowners. It has proved effective in helping conservation district leaders meet their conservation objectives.

The program places priority on areas subject to severe wind and water erosion and on areas where a change in land use is needed.

It provides needed help to groups of farmers and ranchers who are unable to solve unusual conservation problems working separately.

Its special help is in addition to other ongoing conservation programs in the Great Plains.

It encourages efficient use of water resources but places a practical limit on cost sharing for irrigation improvements and for practices enhancing recreation and fish and wildlife resources.

It encourages the conservation management of range cover and crop residues to reduce erosion, improve the soil, and stabilize the operating unit.

Level terrace collects storm runoff, preventing erosion and providing water.

KAN-1,978



Pasture deferred during the summer is used for winter grazing. OKLA-11,199



Conservation work authorized for cost sharing in most counties—

- Establishing permanent plant cover
- Field stripcropping
- Contour stripcropping
- Reseeding grassland
- Establishing trees or shrubs
- Establishing permanent waterways
- Terraces
- Diversions
- Mechanical treatment of grassland such as furrowing, chiseling, and ripping
- Erosion control, detention, or sediment-detention dams
- Grade-stabilization structures
- Streambank or shore protection
- Spreader ditches or dikes
- Reorganizing irrigation systems
- Leveling land for irrigation
- Building or improving dams, pits, or ponds for irrigation water
- Lining irrigation ditches, canals, or laterals
- Wells
- Developing springs and seeps
- Dams, pits, or ponds
- Pipelines
- Controlling competitive shrubs
- Fences
- Treatment of critical areas
- Irrigation tailwater recovery systems
- Lagoons for disposal of animal wastes
- Grading and shaping of recreation land
- Water storage facilities
- Catchment basins
- Shallow water areas for wildlife

For further information see your local SCS representative, county agent, or a member of the board of the local conservation district.

This publication supersedes PA-41B "Protect Your Land and Your Future Through the Great Plains Conservation Program."

Issued July 1970



A new well and tank made possible through the Great Plains Conservation Program.
OKLA-11,904



Wind stripcropping and residue management. Wheat and summer fallow are in alternate strips.
NEB-1 374

